



MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

JOHN BEAL, Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at the Postoffice at Mexico, Mo., as Second-Class Matter.

Published Every Thursday.

\$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Established in 1899. Audrain County's Favorite Newspaper.

HON. JOHN M. ATKINSON.

The Message is for John M. Atkinson of Ripley county for Governor.

We have studied all the candidates closely and have settled on Mr. Atkinson as the cleanest and best man in the list of candidates. We have known him personally for ten years and in the good qualities of his inner character we believe him to be the peer of any man. He is experienced in public affairs—capable and qualified—giving him all the Jeffersonian requirements for high position.

There seems to be but one element fighting Atkinson and that is led by a certain publication of questionable worth in St. Louis which uses such inelegant phrases in its editorial expressions as "plumire," "hell of a sight better," "not worth a dam," etc. Said publication is against temperance legislation, of course, and is fighting organized labor. It does not represent the best thinking minds of the State nor the best morals of the community. A candidate is fortunate, if anything, to have such opposition.

Here's for John M. Atkinson as Missouri's next Governor.

A TEST FOR FARMERS.

We are indebted to the Country Gentleman for a suggestion that is worth passing on to the farmers of Audrain county. In an editorial in its current issue this widely read agricultural paper says that, after all, the dry-weather test is one of the severest that the farmer has to meet, and it encourages him to work to overcome the handicap. The hint has a practical bearing for crop growers at this time because of the unusually light precipitation so far this season.

"Drought is a tester of farmers," says the editor. "It tests not only his knowledge of cultivation and capillarity, but more especially their capacity for wrestling with adverse conditions and overthrowing them. Plants, like animals, pay for codling. The crop that gets the regulation number of cultivations according to schedule may do as well as the crop that is fussed over a little when the conditions become unfavorable. The animal that has its feed provided and that is left to eat may do as well as the one that is petted and catered to a little now and then. But the chances are against both propositions."

It goes without saying that the farmer who gets busy when things are wrong is the man who will win out in the long run. It may seem at times that the fates are against him, but the percentages are in his favor. It does not pay to lose heart in agriculture any more than in any other occupation. Indeed, it seems that sometimes that the tiller of the soil has more than his share of troubles to contend with. There is usually too much or not enough rainfall, the weather is abnormally hot or cold, bugs, hail or disease come when there is nothing else the matter and when crops are most bountiful prices are low or the trust corners the market.

Nevertheless, the farmers are the most independent people of the day and they are the mainstay of society. A little encouragement now and then should help them to a position of even greater influence.

The city should work the prisoners in getting rid of the weeds on certain streets. Please tell us why not. Let's play fair and get rid of the weeds.

Down in Laddonia precinct, we are told, they intend to turn down the gang, as they term it, at Jefferson City in the primary next month. Enough of nepotism and long terms in office.

Keep your milk cows well fed this dry weather. The milk flow won't come back if cut down by grass shortage.

Eliminate politics from city government. Business and the best interests of all should be the only consideration.

Two terms is long enough for any man to serve in any State elective office. At the August primary put any fellow out who asks for more.

W. W. Mundy, out Molino way, is again at Sheldon, Mo., looking after business interests and visiting his wife who is the guest of relatives there.

Preparations are in the fore for oiling the Boulevard. The oil is to cost \$4.10 a gallon, it is said. Good spreadin' will be required, don't you think, or the cost will mount up.

A negro making hay near the Boulevard lighted a cigaret and dropped the match in the hay and started a fire which called out the Fire Department. Turn that nigger off and don't hire him over.

Yellow dog politics is rapidly passing. Four years ago Roosevelt kicked out of his party traces, and even went off and organized another party. But in these times he's back again and some of the fellows are hugging him as a pretty good Republican after all.

Charlie Torreyson, of Laddonia, is going to move to Columbia. "Cat," as he is familiarly known down that way, is a popular fellow and he and his family will be missed. Forty years a resident of the same good old neighborhood, Charlie, you can't find a better place than Audrain. What do you mean by moving away?

Two children, one only five months old and the other 8 years old, were deserted by their parents at Vandalla a few days ago. Judge Alex Carter of the County Court, in the goodness of his heart, went down and brought them to Mexico and is giving them care in his home for the present. What do you think or parents like that, especially a mother who would desert her offspring to this cold and unsympathizing world.

Clark White of this city, who is a graduate of Transylvania University at Lexington, Ky., has been elected principal of the public school at Paris, Ky. It is a town of 15,000 people and is an important city. Audrain boys make good along with any of them in earning such positions.

Mrs. E. R. Taft has returned from Jefferson City where she visited her son, Raymond Taft, and family.

L. Roy Ferris addressed about 30 of the kiddies—told them a nature story or two such as he writes for the Message—at the Bethel picnic last week. The elderly people kept coming up and dropping into the gathering and it caused L. Roy a little embarrassment, so he says. "They charge me with being so very modest and reserved." Modest, of course he is, and he's the best entertainer of children we know.

"The Land Problem in Mexico" is a question discussed in the Message this week. The article is by Judge Lebbeus R. Wilfley, a former Audrain county boy, born and reared in this county, in fact. He is a man of world-wide reputation. Was at one time attorney general in the Philippines, later was Special Judge for the U. S. at Shanghai, China, and of late years has represented several interests in Old Mexico. He is qualified to speak concerning the Mexican people. We are glad to give his article space and are sure all our readers will be interested in giving it a careful perusal.

The Land Problem In Old Mexico

(Lebbeus R. Wilfley in the North American Review.)

The general impression which prevails in the United States that an agrarian question lies at the basis of the present revolt in Mexico, is not supported by the facts, as an investigation of the situation will show. In the first place, there is no general agrarian question in Mexico. Oppression in Mexico is general and there are abuses which are universal but this is not true, with one exception which will be mentioned later, for those abuses arising out of the administration of landed estates. The land question is local, and differs in different localities. It is serious in only one state—Morelos.

There can be no general land question in Mexico, for two reasons: First, because the Indian does not want

land, and second, if he did want it, it exists in great abundance for all. Only about 15,000,000 people, the majority of whom are Indians, live in Mexico, which is a country of over 500,000 square miles, or 500,000,000 acres. The fact that the Indians do not want land has been demonstrated many times and in various ways.

No, the Indians do not want land. What he wants is permanent employment at a reasonable wage. He wants to live in comfort without the anxiety and labor which are incident to the successful management of landed estates. This trait of the Indian character is well illustrated by the fact that a great majority of the race prefer to dwell on the tablelands which occupy the central part of the Republic, where the climate is cool, the land poor and dear, and water scarce, rather than live in the low lands along the coast, where the climate is hot, the soil rich and cheap and water plentiful. The trait of the Indian character which causes him to do this is the key to the proper understanding of the land problem in Mexico.

In fact, there can be no comprehension of the so-called "land problem" without an understanding of the Mexican people. The great problem in Mexico is not the land question, but the Indian question.

The general impression which exists in the United States, that Mexico is a Latin country, is a mistake. President Diaz estimated that in 90 per cent of the Mexican population Indian blood predominated, and that considerably over 50 per cent of the population was pure Indian blood. In this fact we have the A B C of a correct understanding of the Mexican situation; and the X Y Z of it lies in the knowledge of the fact that the Mexican Indian is similar to the North American Indian, with whom we are familiar, except two respects.

The North American Indian was a nomad, and a warrior; while the Mexican Indian is attached to his village, and is a pacific individual. Otherwise they have the same characteristics: they are treacherous, revengeful, cruel, lazy, opposed to modern civilization, lacking in initiative, in the power of forecast, in self-restraint, and are devoid of interest in the general welfare of the community. (Of course there are exceptions to the rule. There are some exceedingly clever Indians and, with opportunity, this class would undoubtedly come to the front.)

The real problem in Mexico is the problem of the races. With 10 per cent of the population Caucasian and 90 per cent Indian, how is it possible for a constitution and a body of laws to be evolved and adapted by the two races which would be applicable to both? The proposition is an absurdity.

The preponderance of Indian blood in the population of the country constitutes the great fundamental problem which embraces and overshadows all others in Mexico. It is the basis of all revolutions, for the reason that revolutions such as usually occur in Mexico could not take place except in a community where the masses of the people are in ignorance. It makes real democracy in Mexico impossible, and it gives rise to all of these problems which are now vexing that unfortunate country, and the solution of which is fraught with so much difficulty.

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culty.

The fact is that the real land problem in Mexico is not more land for the people, but more people for the land. It is well known that in many of the states the people are actually "land poor."

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SAM MORRIS.

Mrs. Belle Moore of this city underwent an operation in a St. Louis hospital last week. She is reported as recovering nicely.

PREACHER GOES WRONG.

Montgomery City, Mo., July 12.—Re v. R. M. Mills, until recently pastor of the Christian Church at Wells-ville, but later the proprietor of a soft drink place in High Hill, is sought by Prosecuting Attorney Nowlin and Sheriff Wilson with a warrant charging him with bootlegging in dry territory. Before the Sheriff got to High Hill Mills had departed. Recently Mrs. Mills sued for a divorce but withdrew it after papers had been served. Rev. Mills, then lost his position as pastor.

John Davenport, out beyond Thompson, was in town Saturday. He reported all well on the farm; a little dry, but nothing hurt yet.

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MRS. ANDERSON.
Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, 82 years old, wife of Brice Anderson of this city, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sophia Kincaid, Friday morning. The funeral was held at the home of Mrs. Kincaid Sunday afternoon conducted by Rev. S. W. Hayne.
Mrs. Anderson had lived here since 1873. The husband survives her besides one son, Wm. Anderson, of this city, and three daughters—Mrs. Kincaid, mentioned above, and Mrs. Elizabeth Beringer, of Fort Collins, Colo., and Mrs. Mollie Trimble of Tyrone, Mo. Two brothers also survive—Mel Fox of this city and Taylor Fox of Kansas. A sister resides in Wisconsin.